

February 24, 1976

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise to oppose my seat mate and colleagues' motion to raise this bill from Committee without Committee consent.

I'm sure you have read your Committee statement and readily see that it was a split vote in Committee, but a majority of that Committee did not feel that the evidence and the testimony that was presented at the hearing warranted putting this bill to the floor. I suggest to you, as it was suggested at the hearing, that the expenditures for the money for the Legislature is increased considerably since we have gone to annual sessions. I also suggest to you that what hasn't increased in the last six years. I believe that we have increased our spending to the advantage of the Legislature to the degree that we have added assistance to our operations that was needed badly. I believe that we, as members of this Legislature if we are taking our position seriously, can ourselves make it better. We have, last session, had passed around to us a questionnaire from the Rules Committee requesting individual suggestions for improvement to our body by way of rule changes. I believe that this body should spend considerable amount of time in those suggestions that are brought to the floor by the Committee for the improvement of the operations of this body. I believe that it will work. We have just failed to do our duty as members of this body to make it do just that.

We, ourselves, can improve our image and also our operations if we will but put our shoulder to the wheel and do it. I charge this body now to assume that responsibility ourselves and not ask the people of the State of Nebraska to do it for us. They ask us to do this on an annual basis and I believe we have a duty to fulfill and we can.

I hope you will reject this and work to improve our own selves, and we can do it. Thank you Mr. President.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise in opposition to the Mahoney motion. Senator Mahoney has demonstrated his usual skill in not outlining his arguments in favor of raising the bill at this time. In that way anyone of us could pinpoint him and answer those arguments. He has saved those arguments for his closing, when the rest of us are precluded from answering him point-by-point. Those of us who know him can anticipate his arguments, several of them have already been anticipated. Senator Chambers, Senator Lewis, Senator Carsten have outlined some of those arguments very eloquently.

If you would listen to some of the proponents of the idea that we should return to the biannual session and if you would listen to some of the individuals who refer to their responsibility of the Legislature, you would think that the members of this Legislature, those of us who are farmers put away our plows, those of us who are businessmen locked up our businesses, those of us who are labor men resigned our jobs, and just marched down here and arbitrarily picked out a seat without the elective process and decided to make laws. Now that isn't the way it happened. Those of us who are here